FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 JUNE 1983

PLO Affairs

After "fierce fighting" with forces loyal to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Fatah dissidents captured another loyalist stronghold near Shtawrah and arrested a large number of 'Arafat's men, Voice of Lebanon radio reported on 29 June. The dissidents transferred 150 prisoners to Syria, the radio announced later. Earlier, a loyalist spokesman admitted that his side lost 15 persons killed and 20 wounded in battles with the dissidents and their backers on 28 June, according to Radio Monte Carlo. In a related report, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said PLO Deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir has informed 'Arafat that under present conditions the loyalists can hold out only 3 more days in the Al-Biqa' valley. Al-Wazir also told a press conference in Tripoli, Lebanon, that there is "no possibility of ending the fighting because every time the PLO opens a door for dialogue, the Syrians close it and ignite the mutiny against 'Arafat," according to the Voice of Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Fatah dissident leader Nimr Salih issued an official statement accusing 'Arafat, Al-Wazir and Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), of "working to recognize Israel and to approve the Israeli-Lebanese agreement," Radio Monte Carlo reported. Another dissident leader, Colonel Khalid al-'Amlah, denied that Hawatimah "has played any role in mediating the Fatah dispute" and said the dissidents "reject any dialogue" with the DFLP, according to the radio. Radio Monte Carlo did not follow up its earlier report that Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) leader George Habash has persuaded Syria to revoke its expulsion of 'Arafat; the London daily *Ash-Sharq Al-Awsat* said Habash's recent talks with the Syrian president produced nothing. Both the Fatah loyalists and dissidents are preparing to resolve their dispute by force, the paper indicated.

While the fighting continued in Al-Biqa', PLO leader 'Arafat held talks with President Chadli Bendjedid in Algeria, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio noted. The talks focused on the hostile attitude of "certain Arab regimes" toward 'Arafat and the PLO and on the military situation in Al-Biqa'. A PLO source cited by the radio said Bendjedid reaffirmed Algeria's firm support for the PLO. In another development, PNC members in Egypt called on Syria to revoke its decision to deport 'Arafat, MENA reported.

Habib Mission

After holding talks with Saudi King Fahd in At-Ta'if, U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib flew to Cairo where he met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, according to SPA and MENA. 'Ali and Habib discussed possibilities for breaking the current impasse over Lebanon, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman disclosed in a statement reported by MENA. Habib departed Cairo for Beirut on 29 June, Cairo radio noted.

Syria

The next Syrian-Israeli war, if it breaks out, will be "completely different" from the 1982 war when the Syrian Army was less well equipped and prepared, Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas said in a *Stern* magazine interview reported by Radio Monte Carlo. Syria can now mobilize 750,000 men, Talas asserted.

A Damascus radio commentary viewed recent U.S. diplomatic and military moves in the Middle East as part of a "conspiracy," claiming that U.S. envoy Habib will seek to persuade Lebanon to accede to a "new invasion by the Rapid deployment Force" to fill the vacuum caused by a partial Israeli withdrawal.

Egypt-Sudan

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri held talks in Cairo on the "aggressive operations" carried out by Libya against the Chadian Government, according to an official statement on the meeting carried by MENA. Mubarak and Numayri appealed to all forces concerned with Africa's security and stability to back the legitimate Chadian leadership and warned that if the aggression continues Egypt and Sudan will consider adopting "appropriate measures" to defend the legitimacy of the OAU and foil aggressive plans against states neighboring Chad.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian fighter planes shot down an Iraqi aircraft on 28 June near Saqqez in the Talijan region, according to an Iranian Armed Forces announcement broadcast by Tehran radio. Meanwhile, responding to an Iraqi proposal on the exchange of POW's, the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced that it contained "nothing new" and merely reiterated for propaganda purposes similar proposals advanced by Iran, according to Tehran radio. However, Iran is prepared to exchange POW's on an equal basis and under Red Cross supervision, the announcement added.

Afghanistan

Afghan resistance fighters in a series of attacks on the northern provinces have shot down a helicopter, destroyed a number of armored vehicles and killed "dozens" of Soviet and Afghan soldiers, AFP reported citing Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad. The government has dispatched fresh troops to Baghlan, Qonduz, and Badakshan Provinces to counter the increased insurgent activity, the sources added.

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Karmal Addresses Provincial Governors Seminar

LD290900 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] Kabul, June 28, BAKHTAR — Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of RC of the DRA, today called upon the governors of the provinces to become close with the masses, to respect the customs and traditions of the people and to heal their wounds. He was talking to the participants of the first ever seminar of provincial governors at the headquarters of the Revolutionary Council.

Babrak Karmal added that unfortunately [as received] all the governors are members of the PDPA and possess the qualities of party and state officials. He called upon them to be the first to implement the directives of the party in appropriate manner.

Babrak Karmal pointed to the most topical and two-pronged tasks of the provincial governors, i.e., firstly, consolidation of the local organs of state power throughout the country and, secondly, making more efforts for military recruitment in order to strengthen the Armed Forces of the DRA. "As you know," he continued, imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism is leading the mankind to the brink of annihilation. We, therefore, should have a powerful armed force. The Soviet peace forces were invited here to rebuff the imperialist aggression."[quotation marks as received]

Babrak Karmal stressed that the democratic land reform constitutes the nucleus of our anti-feudal and anti-imperialist national and democratic revolution. Unless and until the democratic land and water reforms are implemented, we will not be able to realise the objectives of the revolution.

He also called upon the governors to devote serious attention to raise agricultural yields.

Reportage on Mujahidin Clashes With Soviet Forces

Attacks on Northern Provinces

BK281625 Hong Kong AFP in English 1542 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] Islamabad, June 28 (AFP) — Afghan resistance fighters in a series of attacks on northern provinces close to the Soviet borders have shot down one helicopter, destroyed a number of armoured personnel carriers and killed dozens of Soviet and Afghan soldiers, Western diplomatic sources said here today. Almost the entire northern tier of the country experienced an upsurge of mujahedeen activity in the past weeks and the Soviet-backed regime has despatched fresh troops to Baghlan, Qonduz and Badakhshan Provinces to relieve the resistance pressure, the sources said.

Thousands of well-armed Afghan mujahedeen who earlier converged in Paghman have started scattering towards the north in what was seen by observers here as a shift in the guerrillas' strategy of harrassing the regime in the areas close to the Soviet Union. This led to a "marked drop" in guerrilla activity in Kabul during the past week, they said.

According to Western diplomatic sources Moslem guerrillas rocketed the Shadian Hotel in the centre of the northern city Mazar-e Sharif. The attack reportedly resulted in heavy casualties on both sides. The guerrillas destroyed four or five armoured personnel carriers guarding the building.

According to Western diplomatic sources towns in the northern Jowzjan, Faryab and Maimana Provinces were also under guerrilla pressure. Mujahedeen damaged several posts in Lashkar Gah east of Mazar-e Sharif and villages in Faryab and Maimana were bombed for three days by the Soviet helicopters, they said.

Mujahedeen attacked a column of Soviet Afghan forces three miles (five km) north of Baghlan and 10 Afghan or Soviet troops were killed or wounded. Three military vehicles were crippled by the guerrillas who also shot down a MI-24 gunship helicopter with machine gun fire around June 10, the sources added.

A military post near Chashme Bulbul (Nightingale Eyes) was overrun by the rebels, who killed a dozen troops. Another dozen soldiers and paramilitary troops defected to the mujahedeen side, the sources said. The Russians are said have bombed the towns of Charikar and Ghaza last week.

Deputy Defense Minister Killed

GF281240 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 27 Jun 83

[From "The Movement of the Oppressed Is Bearing Its Fruits" program]

[Text] The negotiations held in Geneva between Pakistan and Afghanistan under the auspices of the United Nations have ended. The talks held by the two sides, which did not actually sit at the Geneva negotiating table, and the fact that the UN secretary general [as heard], who mediated between the foreign ministers of Pakistan and Afghanistan, has expressed anxiety over the outcome of the talks, have indicated that a speedy solution to the question of Afghanistan is impossible. The fact should also be taken into consideration that the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries will reject any compromise aimed at presenting the presence of foreign military forces in Afghanistan as a positive development.

We have recently observed that the Afghan mujahidin have intensified their attacks on the occupationist Soviet forces. Reports have been coming in recently to the effect that Afghan mujahidin have strengthened their struggle in Afghanistan. They have been making new moves every day causing loss of life and material damage to the enemy. According to the reports, a truck belonging to the Afghan Government forces was destroyed after hitting a mine on one of the roads leading to the center of Paktia. A total of nine people were killed in the incident, including Mohammad Ahmad Shafiq, the deputy defense minister of Babrak Karmal, and four Army and Air Force officers.

It has also been reported that Afghan mujahidin killed 21 Soviet and Babrak Karmal troops in Laghman Province during the first week of the current month.

Foreign Minister Meeting With UN Chief Cited

BK251049 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Excerpts] The foreign minister, Mr A. R. Shamsud Doha, met the UN secretary general, Dr Perez de Cuellar, at the UN Headquarters in New York yesterday. During the hour-long meeting they exchanged views about the ongoing UNCTAD meeting. They agreed on the important role of the UNCTAD six [words indistinct] and improving the international economic situation in the developing nations.

He also discussed a wide range of international issues, including the problem of Namibia. The UN secretary general emphasized that the Namibian problem deserves an urgent attention.

Both the leaders also discussed the forthcoming General Assembly session.

Minister o/s Preparations for Local Elections

BK251055 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Excerpt] Preparations are going on to hold elections to the local bodies, union council, thana parishad [police zonal council], and district council in the first quarter of next year. The minister for local government, Mr Mahbubur Rahman, told BSS in Dhaka yesterday that the elections to the union parishad and municipality will be the first to be held and that of thana and district will follow with the [word indistinct] of thana completed before the current year runs out.

The minister pointed out that elections to the local bodies will be the beginning of introduction of responsible democratic institution at the grass root level. He said the chief martial law administrator is also keen to hold elections to Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] in the next winter if everything goes well. General Ershad is keen for introduction of an effective and responsible govenrment, he said.

Delhi Previews Upcoming Shultz Visit to Country

BK281619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] The supply of spare parts for the Tarapur atomic power-plant will be one of the important subjects of discussion between Indian leaders and the U.S. secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, who arrives in New Delhi tomorrow on a 4-day visit. India would like to see the question resolve satisfactorily. Official sources in New Delhi say that the United States is under an obligation under the 1963 agreement to supply the spare parts. If it cannot make the supplies, it has to find the way to ensure spare parts for Tarapur.

According to these sources, India attaches great importance to the visit, which will be the first contact between the two countries at a high level since the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi's,visit to the United States last August. Mr Shultz will have formal talks with the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and also meet the prime minister. At their discussion, important international questions, particularly the situation in West Asia, the Afghan issue, East-West relations, the Indian Ocean, and the arms race are expected to come up. India will also reiterate its concern over the supply of U.S. arms to Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the foreign secretary, Mr Rasgotra, today said that India believes that it is not the policy of the U.S. Government to draw a comparison between the Khalistan demand and Peurto Rico's independence. He was replying to newsmen who drew his attention to a recent interview by the U.S. ambassador to India, Mr Harry Barnes. Mr Rasgotra also recalled a statement by the U.S. State Department reaffirming Washington's commitment to the unity and territorial integrity of India. Mr Barnes himself clarified in a press statement today that he was not drawing any such analogy. Expressing his distress over the controversy he said he was only commenting on the question which he understood to refer to the excercise of free speech in the United States and India.

Akali Dal Leader Appeals for Communal Harmony

BK281400 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] The Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, today appealed to the people of Punjab to maintain communal harmony. In a press statement in Amritsar he asked the people to be vigilant against mischievous elements which are out to create disturbances.

The president of the Shiromani Akali Dal, master Tara Singh group, Jathedar Rachhpal Singh, stressed the need for Hindu-Sikh amity. Expressing concern over the recent incidents of violence in Punjab, he called upon the opposition parties and the Akali leadership to condemn the killings of innocent people in the state. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he suggested the setting up of peace committees to contain the spread of violence to other areas.

Jullundur Situation Under Control; Curfew Continues

BK281620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Darbara Singh, has expressed the hope that the situation in Jullundur will soon return to normal. Talking to newsmen in (?Jullundur) he expressed his concern over yesterday's incident and said it was unfortunate. The situation in the curfew-bound area of Jullundur continues to be under control. Life in the remaining areas of the city is near normal and shops are open. A strict vigil is being maintained in the sensitive areas. In the curfew areas, women and children were allowed to purchase their daily necessities between 1600 and 1700 this evening from ration shops set up by the state administration. No untoward incidents have been reported from any part of the city so far.

In Amritsar, one person was shot dead today by two unidentified assailants. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, the assailants were said to be extremists.

Haryana Governor Dismisses Two Ministers

BK271339 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Jun 83

[Text] The Haryana governor, Mr G.D. Tapase, today dismissed two ministers on the advice of the chief minister. The ministers are the public health minister, Mr Lachhman Singh, and the revenue and forest minister, Mr Phool Chand. Disclosing this at a news conference the chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, said he took the action because he had lost confidence in them. The dismissal was recommended when the two ministers failed to tender their resignations in spite of his repeated requests.

Agriculture Minister Resigns

BK281656 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] The Haryana agriculture minister, Mr Surender Singh, says he has resigned from the state cabinet. Speaking in New Delhi, he claimed that five of his colleagues have also submitted their resignations to the prime minister. He gave their names as: Mr Harpal Singh, Mr A.C. Chowdhary, Mr Goverdhan Dass Chauhan, Mr Sharda Rani and Mr (Amar Singh Dhanik). The Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, said in Chandigarh that he has not received any official information about these resignations.

The Congress-I general secretary, Mr Chandulal Chandrakar, said in New Delhi that the resignations would not lead to a political crisis in the state. Replying to a question by newsmen, he said those who are stated to have resigned continue to be congressmen. Replying to another question, he said in this context the question of a change in the leadership of the state legislature party does not arise.

Curfew Imposed on Malegaon Following Riots

BK280859 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] A 19-hour curfew was clamped in Malegaon town in Nasik District of Maharashtra from midday today. This was disclosed by the state police control in Bombay today. A 7-hour curfew imposed in the town last night was lifted this morning.

Police Fire on Mob

BK281444 Hong Kong AFP in English 1435 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] New Delhi, June 28 (AFP) — One person was killed and at least six wounded today when police opened fire to quell rioters in Malegaon town, about 250 km (156 miles) northeast of Bombay, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

An earlier PTI report said police opened fire at several places in the town to disperse mobs which set fire to shops and looted property. The agency did not identify the factions involved in therioting but they were believed to be Hindus and Moslems.

PTI, quoting District Collector Govind Swarup, said police fired a total of 15 rounds today after reimposing a 19-hour curfew in the town from mid-day to 6 am tomorrow. The total number of wounded was not immediately available. The curfew was first imposed last night following communal riots when police fired on a 15,000-strong crowd which stoned a police station. It was lifted early this morning. The agency report quoted the police control in the state capital, Bombay, as saying that so far 100 people had been detained as a precautionary measure. The situation remained tense, PTI added.

Situation Under Control

BK281626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] In Maharashtra, the situation in the curfew-bound Malegaon town in Nasik District in reported to be under control. The police director general told newsmen in Bombay today that earlier in the day police had to open fire to control the violent mob indulging in arson and stone throwing.

NAWA-E WAQT Comments on Shultz Mission

GF251342 Karachi Nawa-e Waqt in Urdu 24 Jun 83 International Edition p 3

[Editorial: "Let Mr Shultz Also Fulfill His Desires"]

[Excerpts] The U.S. State Department has issued a statement saying that Secretary of State George Shultz will visit Delhi and Islamabad and will endeavor to eliminate the differences existing between Pakistan and India and the misunderstandings expressed by the Indian rulers on the issue of the sale of U.S. arms to Pakistan. He will explain to them that the arms sale to Pakistan is not aimed at escalating tension between the two countries, but to strengthen Pakistan militarily against the danger from the north, which has emerged from the Soviet troops' occupation of Afghanistan.

The secretary of state's intentions are extremely noble and commendable and previous U.S. Administrations had also voiced similar desires. U.S. rulers and advisers have never been able to understand the Indian way of thinking, nor have they been able to gauge the nature of their mutual disputes and differences. When the Americans cast a glance at the map of this part of the world, they see India as a vast country with an area the size of the Soviet Union and a population approximately the same size as that of the PRC, while Pakistan appears to be a small country to the north which was a part of British India during the British rule. Therefore, they are trying to persuade Pakistan that it should acknowledge India as the "big brother" of the area, the stronger force and political mentor of the region; only then will it be able to stay in peace. What the Americans cannot comprehend is that the differences between Pakistan and India stem not only from being two diverse nationalities, but also two dissimilar cultures.

The higher echelons of the United States and other Western nations do not seem to understand this basic fact. They consider it as analogous to the differences between Germany and France or between Britain and France, which, although there were many wars between them during the past centuries, they are now coexisting peacefully and are in fact good neighbors and friends.

Therefore, we will let Mr Shultz fulfill his desire to resolve Indian and Pakistani contentions. He will witness in New Delhi that Mrs Gandhi, who intercedes on behalf of the Soviet Union's presence in Afghanistan, will resort to various artifices in order to prove herself a nonaligned supporter of the United States, and he will also realize that if the United States waives its plans to sell F-16's and other military equipment to Pakistan, his delusions about the Indian rulers will be removed. Despite being the proven comrade and ally of the Soviet Union, India has no enmity toward the United States; its vendetta is merely against Pakistan. The farther the United States drifts away from Pakistan, the more friendly will the attitude of India be!

SRI LANKA

Prime Minister Comments on State of Emergency

BK281120 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] The motion to extend the state of emergency was passed in parliament by a two-third majority yesterday. One hundred and twenty-three voted for, while only two members voted against it; seven members abstained from voting.

Winding up the debate, Prime Minister Premadasa said that the government was committed to preserve democracy in the country. He said the situation in the north today was such that even local government members who were elected recently were not in a position to assume their duties. He described this as a threat to democracy. The prime minister requested the Tamil United Liberation Front members to ask such local government members to assume their duties without any fear of terrorist activity.

Referring to the holding of demonstrations in front of the houses of judges, Mr Premadasa said that the attorney general had already taken necessary action. The prime minister asserted that Sri Lanka was not a divided country. Government had not given preference to any area or province or enacted special laws for a particular province. Instead, the entire population of the country has been given the opportunity to participate in the country's administration under the development council scheme. It was clear that there was a move to disrupt this right of the people. Therefore, the prime minister appealed to all the political parties for joint action to eradicate terrorism from the entire country.

Musavi-Khamene'i Speaks on Role of Martyrs

LD242319 Tehran IRNA in English 1910 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Yazd, June 24, IRNA — Speaking to a large group of enthusiastic people of Yazd in a local mosque here Thursday, [24 June] Prime Minister Musavi-Khamene'i said that nowadays commemorating a martyr means to honour the islamic revolution and it is at the same time an indication that there is an unshakable interrelation between all the martyrs. This is why, he said, respecting a great martyr means paying reverence to Islam and Koran.

He said the Islamic revolution had been shaped on the basis of three basic elements, that is, ideology, leadership and overall presence of the people in the scenes, further adding that arrogant powers were always trying to target these fundamentals in an attempt to cripple the Islamic revolution. The events leading to June 28 and August 30, 1981 (the terrorist bomb blasts at the IRP Headquarters and Prime Ministry building in Tehran) stemmed from an unholy alliance between all the world lackeys of Eastern and Western oppressors and infidel groups.

He also briefed the gathering on the futile efforts of the subservient groups and agents of the West and the East, liberals and nationalists who attempt to shake the faith and subjectivity of the people. Prime Minister Musavi-Khamene'i also eulogised the wise leadership of Imam Khomeyni and the people for their role in thwarting conspiracies against the revolution and Islamic Republic.

He reiterated that by the martyrdom of each person of the Islamic Republic unity and solidarity of the nation is strengthened. The blood of the martyrs, he continued, inspires the nation to continue this revolution in the present disturbed world.

The prime minister said that the June 28th incident not only failed to realise the oppressors' plan but caused a great movement to nurture in the hearts of our people. He said it is now well-accepted that this system is invulnerable for it is based on ideology (Islam), led by Imam Khomeyni, watched over by Velayat-e Faqih (religious jurisprudence) and the people maintaining their constant presence in the scene.

Premier Hits French Aircraft Delivery to Iraq

LD281444 Tehran IRNA in English 1921 GMT 27 Jun 83

[Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i said here today that the reason for the recent measure of the Iraqi regime in collecting jewelry of Iraqi women was Iraq's critical economic situation.

Speaking after a cabinet session he said as the Iraqi economy worsened, the pressure on people of that country increased. Self-sacrifice of the Iranian people and their donation of money and wealth was because they wanted the Islamic Republic to stand on its own feet and were doing such things on their own free will, prime minister added. However, voluntary actions had no place in dictatorial regime, he stressed.

As for delivery of Super Entendard planes to Iraq by France, the prime minister said that the measure was in line with the hostile attitude of the French Government against the Islamic revolution of Iran. The French president had said that defeat of Iraq in the 34-month-old Iraqi imposed war would mean defeat of France, however, added Musavi-Khamene'i "defeat of Iraq is defeat of all big powers".

Prime Minister Musavi-Khamene'i further pointed out that all big powers were supplying the Iraqi regime with arms and this showed that the Islamic revolution of Iran and Islam, had endangered their interests and posed a great threat. As a result, it was natual for these powers to support Iraq, he [word indistinct].

Among other issues discussed in the cabinet meeting today was oil exports in the next five years as well as government tax revenues, he concluded.

Ministry Spokesman on POW Exchange With Iraq

LD281706 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] Following the Iraqi regime's remarks that Iraq is prepared to exchange POW's under the supervision of the Red Cross, the spokesman of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced:

The Iraqi regime's remarks are nothing new. Rather, they repeat an earlier proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran about the exchange of the two countries' military POW's. He added: If, unlike previous occasions, Iraq does not merely intend to engage in a propaganda maneuver, we are prepared to exchange an equal number of Iraqi POW's for Iranian POW's under Red Cross supervision.

Iraq Call for Relations With Egypt Condemned

LD281718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] In connection with the Iraqi Zionist regime's request to establish diplomatic relations with Egypt's ruling regime,a spokesman of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced: The Iraqi regime, contrary to the resolution of the Baghdad conference in which all Arab countries broke off diplomatic relations with Egypt following that country's adherence to Camp David, has called for establishing diplomatic relations with Egypt and this is tantamount to closing one's eye to Egypt's traitorous move to recognize the Zionist regime, to paving the ground for Egypt's return to the Arab world, and giving a boost to the Camp David policy course. This move, at a time when some reactionary Arab regimes, despite their heart's wishes, are moving with circumspection and slowness in this area, stems from the Zionist nature of the Iraqi regime and should be decisively condemned by the Muslim and Arab countries.

Foreign Minister on Turkish Operations in Iraq

GF290544 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a statement to our correspondent on the incursion made by the Turkish Armed Forces into northern Iraq last May, has said: This state of affairs is a clear indication of the weakening of the Iraqi regime. The reason for this is that due to its weakness, the regime has received aid from the Turkish forces in its drive to suppress Muslim revolutionary Kurds in northern Iraq.

Pointing to the preparation of the Iranian Armed Forces to deal the final blow to the regime ruling in Iraq, Velayati said: At this moment, even the supporters of Saddam sense his imminent final fall.

Tehran Comments on UN Report on War Damage

LD281346 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] Following the publication of a report by a UN investigating team concerning the damage inflicted on residential areas during the war imposed on Iran by Iraq, our country's acting foreign minister has stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran's request to the United Nations, which resulted in the dispatch of a mission to investigate the war crimes of the Iraqi regime, was not a new or first request, for the Islamic Republic of Iran, in light of its legitimate claims, has requested throughout the imposed war of those organizations that regard themselves as mediators for a truce, such as the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference, and the United Nations, to investigate the evidence of the Iraqi war crimes on the basis of the need to rely on facts in reaching a judgement — something which in our view is the fundamental framework for any mediation. Unfortunately, however, there was no response to the positive response of the United Nations to Iran's recent request to investigate the rocket attack against the innocent people of Dezful and Andimeshek by the Zionist Iraqi regime. The criminal Iraqi regime was ashamedly forced to react and to extend a similar invitation.

This resulted in the publication of a report which clearly indicated that regime's complete inability to prove its baseless claims, forcing the regime to resort hastily to measures such as proposing that the United Nations send a mission to visit the two countries' POW's, which was chiefly aimed at diverting public opinion and covering up its disgrace.

In our view, the mere publication of the UN report cannot be accepted in any sense as the end of the work of the mission. It is necessary for the organization, which has frequently taken a stance regarding the imposed war, to state its unequivocal views in the context of the report and inform international opinion of the facts of the matter.

Iraqi Aircraft Shot Down Near Saqqez 29 June

LD290756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Announcement by Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] At 0947 yesterday morning one violating plane belonging to the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces was hit by the fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Talijan region near Saqqez and was downed.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,360

LD281749 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Communique No 1,360 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. We congratulate the imam of the nation and the struggling Muslim people of Iran on the occasion of 7 Tir [28 June 1983], the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Beheshti and 72 other paradise dwellers who were infatuated with self-sacrifice and the urge to serve Islam and Muslims. During the past 24 hours the proud warriors and resistant defenders of the battlefronts of right against falsehood neutralized the enemy's movements with intense and continuous artillery fire while defending their own positions.

Fire continued to be exchanged on the border fronts in Bakhtaran sector, and our forces maintained their fire superiority. The enemy tried to deploy fresh troops to reinforce its forces in the Gishgeh and Miantang regions but our forces opened intense fire on them and inflicted heavy losses upon the Saddamists.

On the border of the Ilam sector our forces continued to defend the regions under their protection, opened fire on enemy positions, and destroyed two vehicles carrying Iraqi troops and a number of their slit trenches. A number of Iraqi troops were either killed or wounded.

Fire continued to be exchanged between our combatants and the Saddamist forces in the Marivan sector. Thanks to the intense fire of the forces of Islam, part of the enemy's installations, fortifications, and trenches on the other side of the border were destroyed and two of the Saddamists' vehicles were set ablaze.

Yesterday the combative forces of Islam stationed on the banks of Arvand Rud continued to exchange fire with Iraqi forces positioned on the other side of the river and inflicted some losses and casualties on the enemy.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Ahvaz Reports on Battle Operations in Abadan

GF281840 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit correspondent in Abadan, the ever vigilant warriors of Islam yesterday and today inflicted considerable blows to the Ba'thist Iraqi mercenaries across Arvand Rud by the fire of their light and heavy weapons against the positions and fortifications of the Zionist enemy.

According to this report, the brave gendarmerie destroyed an enemy oil reservoir in Iraq's (?Khaf) port during the past 24 hours. The Islamic warriors also succeeded in silencing enemy fire in the region by shelling the Iraqis and managed to kill or wound at least 20 of those deceived by Saddam. They also destroyed three of their trenches and two observation posts.

Today the sacrificers of Abadan's Islamic Revolution Committee silenced enemy mortar fire targeted on residential areas of the city and also stopped all enemy movement for some hours along the (?Khaf-Basrah) road, a logistics road in (?Shiveh), as well as other transport channels.

They also shelled large trenches and two buildings where the Iraqi mercenaries had sought shelter.

Further Comment on UN Talks on Afghanistan

LD280753 Tehran IRNA in English 1929 GMT 27 Jun 83

["Withdrawal of Foreign Forces, Key to Afghan Solution" — IRNA headline; quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA — The "Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran" (Tehran Radio) said in its Monday morning commentary that the Geneva conference on the issue of Afghanistan "which is organized upon a collusion between the United States and Soviet Union" is not likely to reach any conclusion, and that the only way for ending the problem in Afghanistan lies in the withdrawal from the Afghan territory of the occupying forces and an end to interference there by the foreign powers. It said also that any effort for solving the situation in Afghanistan which should ignore this principle is doomed to failure.

The commentary reminded that the deadlock in the third round of negotiations at the Geneva conference is an experience in proof of this inescapable fact. Excerpts:

"Pakistani Minister of Foreign Affairs Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan represents his country in talks for reaching a compromise on the issue of Afghanistan set out for China one month before the start of the third round of talks on the issue, and held talks with the Chinese leaders. Later on he met and talked with the British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office Douglas Hurd.

"Similar meetings and talks were held on the subject between officials in Paris, and in Washington and in talks between Yaqub Ali Khan and the French minister of foreign affairs and the U.S. secretary of state in order to get the official word of the Western countries on their recognition of a Soviet puppet government in Afghanistan.

"At the end of this round of his talks, the Pakistani minister of foreign affairs went to Moscow on June 9 for talks with the Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Gromyko. At the end of his talks it was announced that an agreement on the issue of Afghanistan was not in sight, and with such a declaration they as through openly admitted the presence of huge obstacles lying ahead in the Geneva talks over the issue of Afghanistan.

"At the end of the second round of talks, the UN deputy high commissioner for refugees [name indistinct] went to Pakistan in order to visit refugee camps and also hold talks with the Pakistani leaders. Political observers said that the visit had been made in the wake of stern opposition on the part of the refugees against the Geneva talks for returning them to their homeland through a compromise. The third round of talks on the Geneva conference started out in an environment of uncertainty, and ended seven days later without any conclusion.

"Cordovez, who evaded an open admission of a deadlock in the talks, said (after the conference) that he would continue his efforts in his future visits to the countries of the region and also to Tehran until the end of the summer 1983. Cordovez has already several times visited the Islamic Republic of Iran and each time the Iranian authorities told him flatly that in the opinion of the Islamic Republic of Iran which is committed to supporting oppressed masses throughout the globe, and to siding with righteous stands against falsehood, the key to the solution of the problem in Afghanistan lies in the unconditional withdrawal from there of the Soviet troops, in the return of Afghan refugees to their country and in the non-interference of foreign powers in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Iran's most recent position in relation with the recent Geneva conference was published in a communique by the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affaris last week. Said the communique, "the Islamic Republic of Iran, while declaring her full support for the struggle of the people of Afghanistan against any imposed government, recognises the solidarity of all strata of the Muslim masses of Afghanistan and of the Afghan mujahidin without regard to religious and ethnic differences as a requisite for perpetuating their struggle and their resistance against the increasing plots of the West and East.

The "political observer believes that the absence from the Geneva conference of the true representatives of the Afghan people, was the principal reason for the aborted efforts of the conference. In addition the non recognition of Karmal's regime by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the absence from the conference of Iran's official representatives has deprived the conference of necessary sanctions for pursuing its efforts...

"The Geneva conference on the issue of Afghanistan is not therefore likely to reach any conclusion. The only solution to the Afghan issue is the withdrawal from the Afghan territory by the occupying forces, and cessation of interference in that country by the foreign countries..."

'Free Voice' on Iranian Pilgrimage Plans

GF261804 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Excerpts] According to the government radio of Khomeyni's regime, an Iranian delegation that had gone to Saudi Arabia as part of the preparation for this year's pilgrimage returned to Tehran without results because Saudi officials did not receive them. The organization which had been sent to Saudi Arabia by the haj and pilgrimage organization of Khomeyni's regime was supposed to find accommodation for Iranian pilgrims and was also going (?to prepare the grounds) for turning the haj into a political rally. However, Saudi officials stopped the delegation's entry because they had a large number of Khomeyni's photographs and propaganda pamphlets.

The government radio of Khomeyni noted that the two greatest Islamic bastions, Mecca and Medina, are unfortunately situated in Saudi Arabia and lamented the problems created by Saudi officials who will prevent Iran from sorting out all the issues of haj prior to start of the season.

It should be noted that the Government of the Islamic Republic has made extensive plans to turn this religious ceremony into a propaganda and political show on behalf of the Islamic Republic regime. As part of this plan they have tried to increase the number of pilgrims, select them from among families who have lost relatives in war, refugees, (?government officials), families of POW's, and those who have disappeared, as well as guards and mobilization personnel. There will be a number of photographs, posters, and publications sent to Saudi Arabia with each pilgrim to change the ceremonies into a political show. [passage indistinct]

'Radio Iran' on Hashemi-Rafsanjani Esfahan Visit

GF281816 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majlis, arrived in Esfahan to participate in the ceremonies marking the anniversary of the annihilation of Beheshti, whom the regime calls the leader among martyrs of the revolution.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip to Esfahan took place amid formalities which were unsurpassed even under the former regime. It will not be out of place to mention them here: Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in this city accompanied by Dorri Najafabadi, Salek, and Fazel Herandi, Esfahan's representatives to the Majlis. They were received at Esfahan airport by Governor General Karbaschi, political and development officials of the governorate, representatives of AyatollahsTaheri and Khademi, seminarians of the Imam Ja'far Sadeq Academy, representatives of the Esfahan seminary, chiefs and officials of organizations, directors of revolutionary organizations and departments, armed forces posted in Esfahan, and some armed forces commanders and commanders of law enforcement bodies. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then inspected the military police base in Esfahan and after participating in the ceremonies, he said: We are happy that in Iran we have achieved a position we have always desired.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who arrived in Esfahan amid elaborate arrangements and heavy security by the guards, said: I am glad that the chasm between the authorities and the people which existed in the past has been bridged and removed. A new situation has been created that is proved by your presence here and mine. Hashemi-Rafsanjani claimed that the eyes of all the oppressed of the world are fixed on the Islamic Republic's regime, which is the key to Islamic moderation.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, as part of a regime that is based on terrorism and that nurtures terrorists, expressed the hope that terrorism would be eliminated from the area. Observers see the ceremonial visit of Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Esfahan at a time when a power struggle between the Imami faction and the Hojjatiyehs is raging as a display of strength, especially for the consolidation of his position after Khomeyni's death.

'Free Voice' on Visit

GF281830 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani has gone to Esfahan in order to iron out the differences between the mullahs in that city. According to a report by our correspondent in Esfahan, the disagreement between Khomeyni's representative in Esfahan, Mullah Taheri, and Mullah Khademi, the person in charge of the mullah-nurturing center in discussed their points of view with him. We should add that Esfahan is one of the centers of Iranian patriots and is a source of opposition to the illegal regime of the mullahs and the anti-nationalist principle of Velayat-e Faqih. Our political analyst writes the following about Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip to Esfahan and his discussions with Taheri and Khademi:

We believe that the kind and humorous people of Esfahan agree with us in saying that the yellow dog can be mistaken for a jackal and that Khademi and Taheri should be tied in the same stable.

'Radio Iran' Reports 100 Kurds Killed in Sanandaj

GF281724 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] The Islamic Republic's armed forces killed more than 100 Kurds during their attack on the city of Sanandaj.

A report says that the Islamic Republic regime's guards took 70 residents of the city hostage and the massacre operations continue in the city with increasing violence.

Finance Ministry Announces Payment of Foreign Debt

LD281642 Tehran IRNA in English 0926 GMT 28 Jun 83

[Text] Tehran, June 28 (IRNA) — In the year 1361 (1981-2), the Islamic Republic of Iran has paid some 650.67 million dollars of its foreign debts, belonging to the loans obtained from abroad by the former defunct regime. Of that amount, 38.4 billion rials was the original amount of debt, and the rest 14.5 billion rials is the interest on the debt. This was announced by the public relations of the Economics and Finance Ministry today.

The said payment has been carried out by the Iranian technical and economic aids and investments organisation affiliated with the said ministry.

In addition to that, the said organisation has obtained some 300.12 million dollars from the Iranian investments abroad.

The profit from the Iranian foreign investments in [words indistinct] 18.5 million dollars which has increased considerably compared to the previous years.